

Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

§ 58.412

§§ 58.336 and 58.337. Samples for analysis should be taken prior to freezing of the product.

(b) Standard plate count, not more than 30,000 per ml.; coliform count, not more than 10 per ml.; yeast and mold, not more than 20 per ml.

(c) Optional except when required or requested: Copper content, not more than 0.3 ppm; iron content not more than 1.0 ppm.

SUPPLEMENTAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR PLANTS MANUFACTURING AND PACKAGING CHEESE

DEFINITIONS

§ 58.405 Meaning of words.

For the purpose of the regulations in this subpart, words in the singular form shall be deemed to impart the plural and vice versa as the case may demand. Unless the context otherwise requires, the following terms shall have the following meaning:

(a) *Cheese*. The fresh or matured product obtained by draining after coagulation of milk, cream, skimmed, or partly skimmed milk or a combination of some or all of these products and including any cheese that conforms to the requirements of the Food and Drug Administration for cheeses and related cheese products (21 CFR part 133).

(b) *Milkfat from whey*. The fat obtained from the separation of cheese whey.

[40 FR 47911, Oct. 10, 1975. Redesignated at 42 FR 32514, June 27, 1977, and further redesignated at 46 FR 63203, Dec. 31, 1981, as amended at 67 FR 48976, July 29, 2002]

ROOMS AND COMPARTMENTS

§ 58.406 Starter facility.

A separate starter room or properly designed starter tanks and satisfactory air movement techniques shall be provided for the propagation and handling of starter cultures. All necessary precaution shall be taken to prevent contamination of the facility, equipment and the air therein. A filtered air supply with a minimum average efficiency of 90 percent when tested in accordance with the ASHRAE Synthetic Dust Arrestance Test should be provided so as to obtain outward movement of air

from the room to minimize contamination.

§ 58.407 Make room.

The rooms in which the cheese is manufactured shall be of adequate size, and the equipment adequately spaced to permit movement around the equipment for proper cleaning and satisfactory working conditions. Adequate filtered air ventilation should be provided. When applicable, the mold count should be not more than 15 colonies per plate during a 15 minute exposure.

§ 58.408 Brine room.

A brine room, when applicable, should be a separate room constructed so it can be readily cleanable. The brine room equipment shall be maintained in good repair and corrosion kept at a minimum.

§ 58.409 Drying room.

When applicable, a drying room of adequate size shall be provided to accommodate the maximum production of cheese during the flush period. Adequate shelving and air circulation shall be provided for proper drying. Temperature and humidity control facilities should be provided which will promote the development of a sound, dry surface of the cheese.

§ 58.410 Paraffining room.

When applicable for rind cheese, a separate room or compartment should be provided for paraffining and boxing the cheese. The room shall be of adequate size and the temperature maintained near the temperature of the drying room to avoid sweating of the cheese prior to paraffining.

§ 58.411 Rindless cheese wrapping area.

For rindless cheese a suitable space shall be provided for proper wrapping and boxing of the cheese. The area shall be free from dust, condensation, mold or other conditions which may contaminate the surface of the cheese or contribute to unsatisfactory packaging of the cheese.

§ 58.412 Coolers or curing rooms.

Coolers or curing rooms where cheese is held for curing or storage shall be

clean and maintained at the proper uniform temperature and humidity to adequately protect the cheese, and minimize the undesirable growth of mold. Proper circulation of air shall be maintained at all times. The shelves shall be kept clean and dry. This does not preclude the maintenance of suitable conditions for the curing of mold and surface ripened varieties.

§ 58.413 Cutting and packaging rooms.

When small packages of cheese are cut and wrapped, separate rooms shall be provided for the cleaning and preparation of the bulk cheese and for the cutting and wrapping operation. The rooms shall be well lighted, ventilated and provided with filtered air. Air movement shall be outward to minimize the entrance of unfiltered air into the cutting and packaging room. The waste materials and waste cheese shall be disposed of in an environmentally and/or sanitary approved manner.

EQUIPMENT AND UTENSILS

§ 58.414 General construction, repair and installation.

All equipment and utensils necessary to the manufacture of cheese and related products shall meet the same general requirements as outlined in § 58.128. In addition, for certain other equipment the following requirements shall be met.

§ 58.415 Starter vats.

Bulk starter vats shall be of stainless steel or equally corrosion resistant metal and should be constructed according to the applicable 3-A Sanitary Standards. New or replacement vats shall be constructed according to the applicable 3-A Sanitary Standards. The vats shall be in good repair, equipped with tight fitting lids and have adequate temperature controls such as valves, indicating and/or recording thermometers.

§ 58.416 Cheese vats, tanks and drain tables.

(a) The vats, tanks and drain tables used for making cheese should be of metal construction with adequate jacket capacity for uniform heating. The inner liner shall be minimum 16 gauge

stainless steel or other equally corrosion resistant metal, properly pitched from side to center and from rear to front for adequate drainage. The liner shall be smooth, free from excessive dents or creases and shall extend over the edge of the outer jacket. The outer jacket shall be constructed of stainless steel or other metal which can be kept clean and sanitary. The junction of the liner and outer jackets shall be constructed so as to prevent milk or cheese from entering the inner jacket.

(b) The vat, tank and/or drain table shall be equipped with a suitable sanitary outlet valve. Effective valves shall be provided and properly maintained to control the application of heat to this equipment. If this equipment is provided with removable cloth covers, they shall be clean.

§ 58.417 Mechanical agitators.

The mechanical agitators shall be of sanitary construction. The carriages shall be of the enclosed type and all product contact surfaces, shields, shafts, and hubs shall be constructed of stainless steel or other equally corrosion resistant metal. Metal blades, forks, or stirrers shall be constructed of stainless steel and of material approved in the 3-A Sanitary Standards for Plastic, and Rubber and Rubber-Like Materials and shall be free from rough or sharp edges which might scratch the equipment or remove metal particles.

§ 58.418 Automatic cheese making equipment.

(a) *Automatic Curd Maker.* The automatic curd making system shall be constructed of stainless steel or of material approved in the 3-A Sanitary Standards for Plastic, and Rubber and Rubber-Like Material. All areas shall be free from cracks and rough surfaces and constructed so that they can be easily cleaned.

(b) *Curd conveying systems.* The curd conveying system, conveying lines and cyclone separator shall be constructed of stainless steel or other equally corrosion resistant metal and in such manner that it can be satisfactorily cleaned. The system shall be of sufficient size to handle the volume of curd and be provided with filtered air of the